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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 13 August 1951

SUBJECT OB Situation of Soviet Ground Forces

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1 June to 1 July 1951

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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There have been no discernible changes in the disposition of Soviet ground forces in the Soviet-occupied countries of Europe up to the middle of June 1951. With the turnover of personnel still in progress no definite statements on the present strength of the divisions in the Soviet Zone of Germany can be made. The majority of the Soviet Army units in the Soviet Zones of Germany and Austria and in Hungary continued training at the troop training grounds during the period covered by the report.

GERMANY.Order of Battle.

1. Reports received between 1 June and 1 July 1951 indicated no changes in the overall disposition of the Soviet ground forces in the Soviet Zone of Germany until the middle of June 1951.
2. The following units in the Soviet Zone of Germany, [REDACTED] location, 25X1 and date of observation, were confirmed between 1 June and 1 July 1951:

a. GHQ Units of the Group of Occupation Forces Germany (GOMG).

56th Motor Trans Regt
66th (?) Sig Regt
Hq of an Arty Div
A Gun Arty Brig
32d (?) AAA Div

WUENSDORF 21 May
POTSDAM area 28 May
POTSDAM 29 May
POTSDAM 29 May
FRANKFURT/Oder-
KUMSTLIN area 16 June
POTSDAM 8 June

25X1

An Engr Regt

b. Eighth Guards Army.

220th Hv Tank SP Regt
43d (Gds) Gun Arty Brig
936th Gds How Arty Regt
Hq 20th Gds Mecz Div
69th Gds Mecz Regt

GLAUCHAU 12 May
ALTENBURG-WEINAR 3 June
CHRDUF 11 April
JENA 22 May
LEIPZIG 13 April

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STATE	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION										
ARMY	#	X	AIR	#	X	FBI									

[REDACTED]

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c. Third Shock Army.

Hq 3d Gds AAA Div
780th (Gun?) Arty Regt
Hq IX Mtz Rifle Corps
283d Gds Mtz Rifle Regt
288th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt

MAGDEBURG 18 May
GARDELEGGEN (?) 23 May
SCHWERTIN 11 May
HAGENOW 18 May
WISLAR 26 March

25X1

d. First Guards Mechanized Army

1st Gds Tank Regt
19th Gds Mecz Regt
20th Gds Mecz Regt

BORNA May
CHELNITZ May
WURZEN 5 June

e. Second Guards Mechanized Army

31st AAA Div
65th Gds Tank Regt
Hq 12th Gds Tank Div
Hq 1st Mecz Div
35th Mecz Regt
219th Tank Regt
72d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt

SCHOENWALDE area 17 June
NEUSTRELITZ 17 May
NEURUPPIN 11 May
DOEBERITZ 22 June
DOEBERITZ 6 June
DOEBERITZ 6 June
DOEBERITZ 10 April

f. Third Guards Mechanized Army

Hq 11th Gds Mecz Div
49th Gds Mecz Regt
53d Gds Tank Regt
78th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt
Hq 9th Mecz Div
70th Mecz Regt
71st Mecz Regt
692d How Arty Regt
616th Mort Regt

JUETERBOG 2 June
JUETERBOG 2 June
WITTENBERG 25 May
WITTENBERG 5 June
COTTBUS 30 May
COTTBUS 11 May
COTTBUS 27 May
COTTBUS May
COTTBUS (?) 19 May

g. Fourth Guards Mechanized Army

An AAA division

EBERSWALDE 5 May
FUERSTENWALDE

Hq 6th Gds Mecz Div
35th Gds Mecz Regt
82d Gds HV Tank SP Regt
676th How Arty Regt
22d Gds Engr Bn
120th (?) AAA Regt
34th Tank Eng Bn
Hq 7th Gds Mecz Div
24th Gds Mecz Regt
288th Gds AAA Regt
111th Tank Regt
162d Tank Regt
175th Tank Regt
83d Gds HV Tank SP Regt
Hq 10th Gds Tank Div
63d Gds Tank Regt

BERNAU 18 June
BERNAU 6 June
EBERSWALDE 12 May
BERNAU 6 June
BERNAU 21 March
BERNAU 5 April
BERNAU 6 June
FUERSTENWALDE 18 June
(?) FUERSTENWALDE 29 January
FRANKURT/ODER 26 May
ORANIENBURG 9 June
ORANIENBURG 9 June
PRENZLAU 9 June
PRENZLAU 9 June
KRAMPNITZ 22 June
BRANDENBURG 23 May.

Movement of Soviet Offices.

3. The offices of the SCC Land Thuringia moved from WEIMAR to ERFURT at the end of May 1951. Several sources reported during the first half of June that a movement of the SCC Germany in KARLSHORST to DRESDEN and BAD SCHANDAU was planned. Several buildings of the Government of Land Saxony and other public buildings in DRESDEN were vacated for this purpose.

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Field Exercises and Training.4. Division Training.

No essential changes in the occupation of almost all training grounds seemed to have taken place between mid-May and mid-June 1951. It appeared that, this year, the units at the troop training grounds took more time establishing their quarters than they did in 1950. As late as mid-May, the troops gradually took up training. Night exercises of up to two weeks seemed to have been a special subject of training with all units at the end of May and the beginning of June. The regular training of the troops encompassed close-order drill, instruction in the use of weapons and indoctrination inside the camps, and field training at platoon, company, and battery level, including field fortifications and firing with live ammunition. Enlargement of quarters was observed in the northern portion of Letzling Heath, at TENPLIN, WERDER-MARKENDORF, LIEBEROSE, and KOENIGSDRUCK. Specifically, reports on the activity of the troops at the training grounds and permanent quarters received between 1 June and 1 July 1951 indicate the following:

a. Eighth Guards Army Area.OHDRUF:

[redacted] OHDRUF troop training grounds, belonging to all elements of the Eighth Gds Army, constitute no specific confirmation that the divisions of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps are stationed there. However, since all [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] until mid-May belonged to 25X1
the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div and the 20th Gds Mecz Div, there is hardly any doubt that the elements of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps have been in the OHDRUF area since the end of April 1951. [redacted] in addition, elements of the 220th Hw Tank SP Regt from GLAUCHAU have been at OHDRUF since early May. A headquarters, possibly elements of the Hq Eighth Gds Army from WEITHAR, is believed to be on Am Boxberg near GUTHA, which from there, conducts the summer training at OHDRUF and KINDEL.

KINDEL:

[redacted] the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div and, since the end of May, the 21st Gds Mecz Div have been exercising at KINDEL. Both divisions were confirmed there until mid-June. About 200 tanks, numerous artillery pieces of all calibers, and rocket launchers were parked in the HEINA area at that time. No information on the training activity of the troops at KINDEL was obtained.

BAD KOESEN:

An engineer unit of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div was observed at the training site at BAD KOESEN in mid-May 1951. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] vehicles of the 21st Gds Mecz Div and of headquarters units of the Eighth Gds Army were also in that area at that time.

b. Third Shock Army Area.

- (1) The 10th and 7th Gds Tank Divs were confirmed at Letzling Heath until the end of May and mid-June 1951 respectively. The two divisions were probably quartered in the southern portion of

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the training area and in the COLBITZ area. According to a report of mid-June, elements of the 19th Gds Mecz Div are billeted in the SALCHAU area. Elements of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div from STENDAL and GARDELGEN have probably been rotated for training to the UCHTSRINGE-JAEVENITZ area since May 1951. Numerous troop trains, primarily trains with artillery units, were observed in mid-May 1951 on the railroad lines passing through STENDAL and on the MAGDEBURG-HALLENSLEBEN line. They are believed to have been en route to railroad unloading points in the northern and southern portion of LETZLING Heath. Some of these trains carried elements of the 18th Mecz Div from the WITTSTOCK troop training grounds and elements of both artillery divisions of the IV Arty Corps from ALTENHADOW. [] the following army units 25X1 were also indicated in the training area:

Eighth Gds Army: 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div
13th AAA Div
220th Hv Tank SP Regt
GRQ signal regiment

Second Gds Mecz Army: 1st Mecz Div

Third Gds Mecz Army: 6th Gds Tank Div
9th Mecz Div
AAA division

Fourth Gds Mecz Army: 7th Gds Mecz Div
AAA division.

[] 25X1
There have also been [] 11th Gds Tank Div, the 25th Tank Div, the 13th Gds Mecz Div, and headquarters units of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army at Letzling Heath during the first half of May 1951. The statement [] that the southern portion of the training area quarters a total of 40,000 troops at the beginning of June 1951 is probably incorrect and may refer to the entire training area. However, unusually heavy as this concentration of troops may be compared with exercises in 1950, there are still no alarming indications. * Rather it is believed that the individual armies and the IV Arty Corps detached artillery units of their divisions for special firing practice to the target range between HILLERSLEBEN and SALCHAU which had been reconditioned in the spring of 1951. Accordingly it would be plausible when, in the course of the summer, [] all divisions in the Soviet Zone of Germany and further special shipments would be observed going to, or coming from Letzling Heath. 25X1

- (2) Contingents of the 9th Gds Mtz Rifle Div and headquarters units of the IX Mtz Rifle Corps, which had departed from their garrisons by road and rail at the beginning of May 1951, returned to their quarters in early June 1951. These units allegedly exercised in the CRIVITZ area east of SCHMERIN, where at the beginning of June extensive areas were still cordoned off. [] the division were also observed in the DASSOW-KLUETZ area, west of WIS- 25X1
mar, at the same time.

c. First Guards Mechanized Army Area.

Since the quarters of almost all divisions of the army were occupied by only rear detachments by the beginning of June, the divisions are still carried at KOENIGSERUECK. * An element of the unidentified AAA Div,

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possibly the 6th Gds (?), of the GDFG moved from CHEMNITZ to KOENIGSBERG in late May 1951.

d. Second Guards Mechanized Army Area.

- (1) Elements of the 18th Mecz Div were still at WITTSTOCK troop training grounds on 21 June. The troops were engaged exclusively in artillery firing. No elements of the division which left for Letzling Heath in May 1951 were seen to return to WITTSTOCK during the time covered by the report. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

[REDACTED] some elements of the 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div may have been at WITTSTOCK in May 1951 for a short period of training.

- (2) The 9th and 12th Gds Tank Divs were still at their quarters at the beginning of June 1951. No major field exercises were conducted in the vicinity of their military posts. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] both divisions, identified in the TEMPLIN area at the end of May 1951, were probably individual ones. Except for elements of the 72d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt, which moved to ALTENGRABOW in late May 1951, all elements of the 1st Mecz Div were still in their DOEBFRITZ quarters, at the beginning of June 1951. No measures preparatory to a movement were discernible with the three divisions.

e. Third Guards Mechanized Army Area.

JUETTERBOG and WERDER-MARKENDORF:

Elements of the 6th Gds Tank Div were confirmed at Camp WERDER-MARKENDORF until 16 June 1951. No information on the training of troops there was obtained. The identity of units on six troop trains which left military posts and troop training grounds of the Third and Fourth Gds Mecz Armies for JUETTERBOG about 20 May 1951

could not be determined during the time covered by the report. All that could be learned was that [REDACTED] the 6th

25X1

Gds Mecz Div and, in addition, [REDACTED] the 21st Gds Mecz Div and of headquarters units of the First Gds Mecz Army appeared in JUETTERBOG [REDACTED]

25X1

no indications as to the branch of service and purpose of stay. * The identity of the troops who left VETSCHAU and TREUENRIETZEN by rail for LUCKENWALDE and JUETTERBOG respectively at the end of May was also not determined.

25X1

WEISSWASSER:

Since several reports from the WEISSWASSER troop training grounds dated up to mid-June 1951 mention only [REDACTED] the 9th Mecz Div, the previous belief that elements of the Northern Group of Forces are also exercising at WEISSWASSER this year is discredited. * Soviet units, probably a tank regiment of the 9th Mecz Div, conducted field exercises in the RONE area, between WEISSWASSER and SPREMBERG, during the second half of May 1951.

25X1

f. Fourth Guards Mechanized Army Area.

TEMPLIN:

The elements of the 25th Tank Div, which have been at the TEMPLIN troop training grounds since late April 1951, were quartered in Camp VOGELSAAG east of BURGWALL on 19 June and those of the 6th Gds Mecz Div in Camp HAUPTSPRING, which adjoins Camp VOGELSAAG to the east. It is possible that army headquarters units are also quartered

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there. Also at this troop training grounds, the trained personnel were frequently engaged in night tank exercises, in addition to extensive daytime practice marches wearing gas masks. The new recruits received close-order drill. A headquarters unit of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army and its artillery pieces were located in LOWENBRIG on 18 June.

LIEBEROSE:

Reports from the military posts of the 7th Gds Mecz Div, i.e., from FRANKFURT/Oder and FUERSTENWALDE, indicated that the bulk of the division was at LIEBEROSE at the beginning of June where it was confirmed [redacted] until mid-June 1951. During the second half of May, the troops there were engaged in combat practice at squad level. The exercises were frequently conducted at night. Firing practice with live ammunition was held in the TAUER area. At the beginning of June 1951, most of the vehicles were on blocks and the personnel received close-order drill and instruction in the handling of weapons.

5. Special Exercises:

- a. Units [redacted] at the WUSTROW AAA range until late May 1951 included elements of the 13th AAA Div, the 4th Gds AAA Div, the 31st AAA Div, and of the unidentified AAA Divs of the Third and Fourth Gds Mecz Armies. Reports on rail movements indicated that furthermore elements of the 288th Gds AAA Regt of the 7th Gds Mecz Div and an unidentified AAA unit from ZERBST, which does not belong to the 7th Gds Tank Div, were at WUSTROW during the second half of May 1951. In addition, [redacted] vehicles of the 3d Gds AAA Div, of the 2d Gds AAA Div, and of the unidentified AAA Div, possibly the 6th Gds(?), of the GOCG were at WUSTROW Peninsula at the end of April and the end of May 1951. Both the return of elements of the 4th Gds AAA Div and of the unidentified AAA division of the Third Gds Mecz Army to KOENIGSERUECK and KUEHNERSDORF from WUSTROW at the end of June, and the loading of an element of the AAA division of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army in WERNISWALDE confirm a report stating that, in the summer of 1951, the AAA units in the Soviet Zone of Germany would be rotated to the WUSTROW AAA range for a three-month training period. In 1950, the units were exchanged after 6 to 8 weeks. At the end of May and the beginning of June 1951, elements of the unidentified AAA Div, possibly the 32d, returned to their quarters in KUESTRIIN, possibly from JUETERBOG. Elements of the division had moved to JUETERBOG in mid-April 1951.
- b. Elements of the IV Arty Corps, including the unidentified AT Arty Brig, possibly the 4th, from JUETERBOG, and of the 3d Gds AAA Div, the unidentified AT Arty Brig, possibly the 3d Gds, and the 207th Itz Rifle Div of the Third Shock Army were confined at ALTENGRABOW until mid-June 1951. In addition, [redacted] at ALTENGRABOW for the first time during the period covered by the report included: those of the 1st Mecz Div and the 31st AAA Div which were also reported from DOEDERITZ and BORTZOW to have been loaded for shipment to ALTENGRABOW; of the 43d (Gds) Gun Arty Brig and of the two AT artillery brigades of the rifle corps of the Eighth Gds Army; of the 220th Iv Tank SP Regt from GLAUCHAU, of the 7th Gds Tank Div; of the 14th Gds Mecz Div; and of an unidentified AAA unit from PARCHIM. The troops are quartered in the enlarged ALTENGRABOW Camp and in seven tent camps in the northern portion of the training grounds. The southern portion is used for practice firing of the units. Further component units of the 6th Arty Div from RATHENOW were loaded on 13 June, probably for ALTENGRABOW. A staff conference held in ALTENGRABOW on 14 June 1951 was attended by high-ranking officers of the GOCG and the IV Arty Corps. The 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig, which was still at its quarters in POTSDAM in mid-June 1951, was allegedly scheduled for movement to ALTENGRABOW at the end of July or the beginning of August 1951.

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- c. According to available information, the occupation at the BITTKAU engineer training site did not change up to mid-June 1951. * Training activity of the troops on the Elbe River was continued.

Personnel.

6. The expected turnover of personnel in the Soviet Zone of Germany began at the end of May 1951 and was still in progress on 29 June 1951. * Special shuttle trains [redacted] were employed for the transportation of troops. This measure corresponds with Soviet practice previously observed. [redacted]

As far as could be observed, the recruits were loaded at the transfer points of INSTERBURG, GERDAUEN, BREST-LITOVSK, and JAGODIN and arrived in the Soviet Zone of Germany via KUESTRIN, FRANKFURT/Oder, and Guben. From there, they were distributed to their units either through the processing camps in FRANKFURT/Oder, JUSTERBOG, RATHENOW, BAD FREIENWALDE, and WELTAR, or sent directly to the military posts or troop training grounds. Trained personnel due for demobilization departed in the same manner. A thorough examination of all reports available revealed that 35 trains with recruits arrived from, and 19 trains with discharges left for, the U.S.S.R. between 27 May and 29 June 1951.

[redacted] a total of 42,000 to 49,000 recruits is estimated to have arrived in the Soviet Zone of Germany, while a total of 23,000 to 27,000 discharges have returned to the U.S.S.R. Since it is believed that not all rail movements have been reported, actual figures may still be higher. Not before the completion of the replacement program will it be possible to give approximately correct figures. In the Soviet Zone of Germany, the troops were brought to, or taken from the processing camps by short shuttle trains [redacted]

7. On 11 June approximately 200 young officers arrived at FRANKFURT/Oder from the U.S.S.R. by the scheduled leave train.
8. In mid-May, the leave trains operating between FRANKFURT/Oder and BREST-LITOVSK were occupied to 40 to 45 percent of their capacity, and in early June to 30 to 35 percent. Leave schedules are said to continue as usual until August when major maneuvers will begin.

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Transportation.

10. All information received during the reported period indicates that the traffic situation of the Soviet Zone State Railroads is normal. After already easing in May 1951, it has further improved slightly during the month under review. On 3 June, the backlog of loaded cars amounted to 694; a situation which may be considered normal.

11. As of 3 June, the following coal stocks in metric tons were available:

Hard coal	69,082 tons
Brown coal	19,805 tons
Brown coal	
briquettes	55,858 tons
Coke	2,116 tons
Coal dust	303 tons

Total: 167,164 tons

Compared with May, coal stocks have decreased by 28,000 tons, but due to the lesser requirements in summer, coal stocks on hand are still adequate for about 10 days operations.

12. On 3 June the number of operational railroad cars slightly increased reaching an all-time high with a figure of 77,000 operational cars. However, the fixed target of 80,000 cars has not yet been reached. Since mid-May the fixed daily loading schedule of 22,800 cars has mostly been overfulfilled. On the average 24,000 to 25,000 railroad cars were loaded daily, including 300 to 600 for the Soviet Occupation Power.

13. The number of locomotives operated by the Soviet Zone State Railroads has decreased from 5,586 on 28 February 1951 to 5,576, including 3,255 serviceable and 820 damaged locomotives on 1 April. This decline is probably due to the scrapping of locomotives beyond repair.

14. As of 25 May 1951, the park of operational freight cars, exclusive of tank cars, was as follows:

Type of Car	On Hand	Number of Cars to be returned by the U.S.S.R.	Expected to be available on 31 December 1951
Boxcars	21,918	5,830	27,748
Gondola cars	43,812	9,060	52,872
Flatcars	8,962	3,240	12,202
(R, SS, etc.)			
Cars used for carrying construction material	2,710	960	3,670
Passenger cars	981	20	1,001
Foreign-owned cars	12,000	890	12,890
Total:	90,383	20,000	110,383

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Of the cars available 15 percent are damaged and under repair. Of the cars expected to be returned from the U.S.S.R., 1,500 arrived in the Soviet Zone of Germany by 31 May 1951. They were in very bad condition.

15. Since early June trains of empty gondola cars had to be made available for undetermined purposes. The first of these eastbound trains were observed passing through the FRANKFURT/Oder border-crossing point on 8 and 9 June. After mid-June extensive manganese ore and anthracite shipments arrived in the Soviet Zone from the U.S.S.R. It must therefore be assumed that the observed dispatch to the east of trains of empty gondola cars was connected with these shipments.
16. In late May, the locomotives of deactivated Locomotive Column No 9 previously kept cold as column reserve in UCKRO were transferred to the KLINGE railroad station 10 km west of FORST to be parked there. The other column reserve locomotives are still at their previously observed parking sites. However, the reserve locomotives of the four operational locomotive columns stationed in FRANKFURT/Oder appear to have been used for transit operations through Poland since early June.

AUSTRIA.General.

17. The distribution of Soviet Army units in the Soviet Zone of Austria does not seem to have perceptibly changed up to mid-June 1951.
18. Units that were confirmed included:
 - Hq 95th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, commanded by Major General Kosolapov, (fnu), in ST. POELTEN up to 24 April 1951
 - 45th Gds Mecz Regt of the 13th Gds Mecz Div, [] in TRAIS-KIRCHEN, up to April 1951.

25X1

Training.

19. As was previously reported, in April 1951, the units of the 13th Gds Mecz Div, contrary to observations made in the recent years, were not transferred to the DOELLERSHEIM troop training grounds for their summer training. * The reason for this change of procedure has not been determined. According to the latest reports from KLOSTERNEUBURG, the military post of the 45th Gds Mecz Regt of the 13th Gds Mecz Div, four trains were loaded there with tanks, armored personnel carriers, trucks, billeting equipment and personnel on 19 and 20 June. These trains were dispatched to DOELLERSHEIM. Units of the 106th Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt of the 13th Gds Mecz Div also appear to have left KAGRAN about the same time. The unidentified AAA unit was still quartered in the barracks installation in KAGRAN on 26 June. In VIENNA, the Albrecht and Wilhelm Kaserne were still occupied by component units of this division on 27 June. [] in KL STERNNEUBURG and [] the DOELLERSHEIM area it is assumed that the beginning of the periodic exchange of elements of the 13th Gds Mecz Div to the DOELLERSHEIM troop training grounds was started in late-June 1951.
20. The units of the 95th Gds Mtz Rifle Div stationed in ST. POELTEN were still in their quarters in mid-June. The previous assumption that at least elements of the division had been transferred to the DOELLERSHEIM troop training grounds has thus been proved to be wrong.

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21. At the APETLON AAA range the practice firing of the units of the 23d AAA Div, which arrived there in the course of May, was started on 5 June. Two trains with AA guns, allegedly from Hungary, were unloaded at the WALLERN railroad station east of APETLON on 8 June.

25X1C

HUNGARY.

22. In southeastern Hungary the localities of KISTELEK and ORGOVANY were reported for the first time as being occupied by Soviet troops in February 1951.

25X1

RUMANIA.

23. Up to 7 June, the previously reported Soviet occupation of TIMISOARA had not changed. *

POLAND.

24. In mid-May 1951, artillery units, possibly of the 20th Tank Div, held exercises south of OPPELN on both sides of the Oder River. In mid-May 1951, which [redacted] may belong to the Northern Group of Forces, were observed in BRZSLAU.

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1 Annex: 1 - One typed list.

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